



# GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES • Gerard Morgan, P.E., J.D., Director  
470 Center Street • Building 3 • Chardon, Ohio 44024-1068

To: Residents of the Burton Lakes Dam area  
Re: Burton Lakes Dam Updates

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which has regulatory authority over dam safety in Ohio, has issued Chief's Orders to Geauga County (County) in regards to the Burton Lakes Dam. Further, the Orders state the Burton Lakes Dam must be lowered and the dam permanently breached. The Orders were received by the Geauga County Department of Water Resources via e-mail on July 13, 2018. The Orders specify that the County is to hire and an Ohio licensed professional engineer and put together a schedule to permanently breach the dam. The complete construction to permanently breach the dam is ordered to be completed by August 27, 2018.

Gauga County Department of Water Resources is working with an engineering consultant to determine what work will be involved in permanently breaching the dam. The engineer is working with the County and ODNR to define specifics in regards to the expectations of the dam removal and what impacts of the dam removal, if any, have been evaluated. Additional studies of downstream impacts and permitting by other government agencies must be evaluated before the County can agree to a substantial timeline for work to be completed.

Gauga County Department of Water Resources will continue to monitor the Burton Lakes Dam to ensure the safety of the surrounding areas.

If you have any questions regarding the Burton Lakes Dam or if you notice any issues with the dam, please contact our office at (440) 279-1970.